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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/734,057	12/11/2000	Jianying Hu	Matias 15-8-3-20	3729
27997	7590	04/04/2005	EXAMINER	
PRIEST & GOLDSTEIN PLLC 5015 SOUTHPARK DRIVE SUITE 230 DURHAM, NC 27713-7736			RIMELL, SAMUEL G	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2165		

DATE MAILED: 04/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/734,057	HU ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Sam Rimell	2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

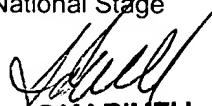
Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1: Claim 1 has been amended to call for inputting tabled data, but then states that the input lacks sufficient hierarchical arrangement to enable logical query. This statement is confusing and apparently erroneous, for even if a single entry is made into a table, it is capable of logical query, such as by SQL query or text scanning. Even a single entry in a single row in table would be capable of logical query, so it is not understood how such data, once entered, would not be capable logical query.

Claim 2-19: Claims 2-19 depend from claim 1.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gusack (U.S. Patent 6,356,897).

Claim 1: Reference is made to FIG. 9 and its associated explanation at col. 15, lines 27-53.

FIG. 9 illustrates a series of database indexes that are hierarchically related. Each index defines a

table with delineated table regions (i.e. rows and columns). The data within the tables are input data. The hierarchical configuration defines a tree because the names index (905) is a root node that is linked to distinct branch nodes and leaf nodes. For example, the CLTF-Index (913) is a branch node to the Names Index root node (905) and the Memory Buffer (919) is a leaf node to the branch node. The tree is considered a binary tree since the underlying data supporting the nodes is digital data, which is binary in nature.

A table row can be segregated by simply highlighting that row, as seen from the highlighted row “Cook, Stephanie” in table 905. The programming which allows this selection to be made is a “row determination algorithm”.

Multiple table columns can be segregated, as seen from the highlighted column portions in tables (913) and (919) which are triggered by the selection of a name in table (905). Portions of the columns “L1#”, “L2#”, “Phone” and “L#” are highlighted. The algorithm which triggers the highlighting is considered a breadth first traversal algorithm, lacking any further detail on what this algorithm actually does.

Column headers, such as “Last Name” and “First Name”, and row headers, such as “Cook” or “Geld” exist within the tables. The algorithm which created these tables are readable as heuristic algorithms, lacking any further detail on what these algorithms actually do.

Claims 2-19 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Remarks

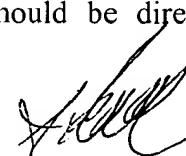
Applicant’s arguments have been considered.

Applicant's arguments are primarily directed to the current amendment presented in claim 1. This amendment has raised a new grounds of rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. In particular, it is not clear how data, once entered into a table, would be incapable of logical query. Even the entry of a single data item in a single row and single column within a table would be capable of logical query, such as by SQL query or text scanning, so it is not clear how this step could be accomplished. Beyond this feature, Gusack does disclose data within individual tables, as illustrated in FIG. 9.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sam Rimell at telephone number (571) 272-4084.



Sam Rimell
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2165